

In the claims:

The claims standing for examination are reproduced below with appropriate status indication.

1-17. (Canceled)

18. (New) A call-waiting system, comprising:

an Internet-connected service system ; and
cooperating software executing at the service system and on a user's Internet appliance for providing a call-waiting service;

wherein, in response to an indication at the service system of a call for the user, said service system generates an alert to the user's Internet appliance of the arriving call, and provides at least a mechanism for the user to transfer the call to another destination.

19. (New) The call waiting system of claim 18 wherein the user's appliance presents an alert as an icon on a display of the appliance, and the mechanism for the user to transfer a call comprises the user manipulating the icon.

20. (New) A call-waiting system, comprising:

an Internet-connected service system; and
cooperating software executing at the service system and on a user's Internet appliance for providing a call-waiting service;

wherein, in response to indications at the service system of calls for the user, said service system generates alerts to the user's Internet appliance of the arriving calls, and provides at least a mechanism for the user to interface with the calls.

21. (New) The call waiting system of claim 20 wherein the user's appliance presents alerts as icons on a display of the appliance, and the mechanism for the user to transfer a call comprises the user manipulating individual ones of the icons.

22. (New) A call-waiting system, comprising:

an Internet-connected service system; and

cooperating software executing at the service system and on a user's Internet appliance for providing a call-waiting service;

wherein, in response to indications at the service system of a call for the user, said service system generates an alert to the user's Internet appliance of the arriving call, and additionally provides a mechanism for the user to initiate outgoing calls.

23. (New) The call waiting system of claim 22 wherein the user's appliance presents an alert as an icon on a display of the appliance, and the mechanism for the user to initiate an outgoing call comprises the user manipulating individual ones of the icons.

24. (New) A call-waiting system, comprising:

an Internet-connected service system; and

cooperating software executing at the service system and on a user's Internet appliance for providing a call-waiting service;

wherein, in response to indications at the service system of a call for the user, said service system generates an alert to the user's Internet appliance of the arriving call, and the user's appliance causes a pre-recorded message to be played to the caller.

25. (New) The call waiting system of claim 24 wherein the user's appliance presents an alert as an icon on a display of the appliance, and the icon is manipulated by the appliance to indicate to the user to indicate characteristic status of the incoming call.